



Community Board #4  
 315 Wyckoff Avenue, 2nd Floor  
 Brooklyn, New York 11237  
 Tel. #: (718) 628-8400 Fax #: (718) 628-8619



**Monthly Community Board #4 Meeting**

Hope Gardens Multi-Service Center  
 195 Linden Street (Corner Wilson Avenue), Brooklyn, NY 11221  
**\*\*\* Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 6:00PM \*\*\***

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Agenda:**

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| 1. <b>First Roll Call</b>                                  | 6. <b>Old Business</b>                     |
| 2. <b>Acceptance of Agenda</b>                             | 7. <b>New Business</b>                     |
| 3. <b>Acceptance of Previous Meeting's Minutes</b>         | 8. <b>Announcements (1.5 minutes only)</b> |
| 4. <b>Chairperson's Report:</b>                            | 9. <b>Second Roll Call</b>                 |
| <b>Introduction of Elected Officials (Representatives)</b> | 10. <b>Adjournment</b>                     |
| 5. <b>District Manager's Report</b>                        |  |

**We Need Your Help!**

Because only the rats like to see garbage piled up in vacant lots. But a healthier, improved neighborhood will not happen by itself. Join other concerned residents and groups to plan for the beautiful Bushwick we deserve!

**Here's your chance:**

**Community Visioning Workshop**

Wednesday, September 30 at 6:00p.m.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church,

1405 Bushwick Avenue (between Cooper and Moffat)

**FOOD, CHILDCARE, TRANSLATION ALL PROVIDED!**

RSVP to **Raul Rubio** at (718) 455-3072, or to **ddouglas @fsnny.org**

**Who?**

Family Services Network of New York (FSN), in partnership with the Municipal Art Society Planning Center, with funding from the NYS Department of State.

**What?**

FSN is doing a study to find out two things: **1) are there any vacant or underused sites in the neighborhood that might qualify as brownfields** (a brownfield site is property whose redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a contaminant. Containants include hazardous waste and/or petroleum); and **2) what would the community like to see developed on these sites?**

**Why?**

We need to have a strong, community-led and supported plan for redevelopment of these sites.

**When?**

Now! We need to collect your ideas to get stated.

**Where?**

The eastern section of Bushwick. The boundaries are Wyckoff and Irving Avenue to the north; Broadway to the south; Van Buren St., Greene Avenue and Myrtle Avenue to the west, and the Evergreen Cemetery to the east.

**NOTICE OF BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT**

This notice is to tell you that you are getting a one-time payment to help with back-to-school costs for the children in your household. This payment is \$200 per child and is based on the number of children in your household who are 3 through 17 years old on August 1, 2009, and in receipt of public assistance or food stamp benefits during July, 2009. This payment will help your family cope with these tough economic times and help your children start the school year off on the right foot. The Open Society Institute and the Foundation to Promote Open Society are giving \$35 million to New York State enabling the State to get federal matching funds of up to \$140 million as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to make these payments.

**What can I use the money for?**

Back-to-School money can be used to buy items such as books, pencils, pens, notebooks, calculators, backpacks, shoes, school uniforms, pants, shirts, skirts, dresses, and other essential school items.

**How will I be paid the money?**

Your money has been paid directly into your EBT cash account. If you receive food stamp benefits only, you can get the money from your EBT **cash** account using the same EBT card and PIN that you use for your food stamp benefits. This payment can be withdrawn through an ATM or, it can be spent at retail locations where EBT cards are accepted.

**Please note that this payment may expire if your cash account is not accessed within 90 days.** You should check your cash balance so you can use this benefit before it expires. You may check your cash balance free of charge at an ATM, on the Internet at [www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com](http://www.ebtaccount.jpmorgan.com). Or by calling the EBT Helpline number on the back of your card.

**Is this just a one-time payment?**

Yes. The Back-to-School money for your household is a one-time payment.

**Will this money affect my Food Stamp Benefits, Medical Assistance, Public Assistance or other benefits?**

No. This one-time Back to School money will not affect your eligibility for the benefits you are currently receiving.

**Are there any shopping discounts I can receive?**

Certain retailers may be offering discounts in the weeks before school starts, so please ask when you make your purchases. Also please check the New York State Consumer Protection Board's "Stretch Your Dollar" tips at

[http://www.consumer.state.ny.us/syde\\_page.htm](http://www.consumer.state.ny.us/syde_page.htm).

**How can I find out about other benefits that I might be eligible for—like cash assistance or help with emergency needs?**

If you only receive food stamp benefits, please go to [www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov), the website to check your eligibility for other benefits such as cash assistance, help with rent arrears, Home Energy Assistance and various tax credits that might help you make ends meet during these difficult economic times.

**What do I do if I think the amount of the Payment is incorrect?**

Please refer to the Conference and Fair Hearing Page on the reverse.

**Harvard University Announcement**

Harvard University announced from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. If you know of a family earning less than \$60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition.

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than \$60,000 a year, visit Harvard's financial aid website at: <http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/> or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

**The Next CEC 32 Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 17, 2009**  
**P.S. 299/ 88 Woodbine Street**  
**\*6:00PM-Working Session**  
**\*7:00PM-Public Session**

**CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY****305 SEVENTH AVENUE-15TH FLOOR****NEW YORK, NY 10001****TEL: (212) 989-0909 / FAX: (212) 989-0983****GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

The grants are for volunteer-led neighborhood groups and public school-based student groups working to improve quality of life in their neighborhood and schools across the city, including in our district. The application deadline is September 30.

**Have a great idea for a community improvement project?** Apply for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award! Citizens Committee for New York City awards **grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups** to work on projects that bring neighbors together and that have a positive impact on the community.

**Our next grant deadline is September 30.** For a grant application and for more info, call/email Arif Ullah or Saleen Shah at (212) 989-0909/grants@citizensnyc.org

In addition to small grants, we offer one-on-one project planning assistance, skills-building workshops, and a resource center with access to computer stations, conference space and an equipment loan library.

**Grassroots Fundraising**

Saturday, October 10, 11am-12:30pm

Support your group's work with community fundraising efforts!

**Group Structure**

Saturday, November 14, 11am-1pm

Build and maintain an effective neighborhood association or community group!

**Media Tools**

Saturday, December 12, 11am-1pm

Increase public support for your group's issues and goals!

Workshops are for volunteer-led groups and individuals interested in working on community improvement projects. Those who complete the series will receive a Neighborhood Leadership Institute certificate.

**For more information about the workshops and to RSVP**, please contact Arif Ullah: aullah@citizensnyc.org/212-822-9580

Workshops will be held at Citizens Committee, 305 7th Avenue, 15th Floor, between 27th and 28th Streets in Manhattan.

**NYC****Department for the Aging****Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program (SCRIE) Income Eligibility Increased to \$29,000**

- For rent-stabilized apartments, tenants must have a valid one or two-year lease.
- Rent must be at least 1/3 of net monthly income.
- Head of household must be age 62 or older.
- Assets: No limit.
- Income: \$29,000 household total

**Applications for the SCRIE program are available at ACCESS NYC ([www.nyc.gov/accessnyc](http://www.nyc.gov/accessnyc)) or by calling 311.**

**NEW HOPE APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST**

961 Broadway, Brooklyn, NY 11221

**SATURDAY AT THE MOVIES**

Join us for an afternoon of good, clean entertainment.

**WHERE:** 961 Broadway, Brooklyn (Near Myrtle Avenue)**NEXT DATES:** September 12th AND September 26th, 2009**TIME:** 3:00 PM SHARP**ALL ARE WELCOME****ADMISSION: FREE****DONATIONS WELCOME**

Church 718-574-3525

Evang. Elvena Davis 718-573-4435

## NYC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

### Prevent Window Falls: Make Sure Window Guards Are in Place.

- Window guards prevent falls and protect children, but only if landlords, tenants and parents make sure they are installed. Even if you don't have children living in your home, it's a good idea to install window guards if children visit frequently.
- **Tenants** whose landlords fail to provide window guards can call **311** to file a complaint. **Landlords** may also call **311** to report tenants who refuse to have approved window guards installed as required by law.

### If children 10 years of younger live in your apartment, or if you provide child care services in your apartment, you must:

- Inform the landlord if you live in a building with three or more apartments.
- Let the landlord come in to install approved window guards.
- Do not remove window guards, even partially, once they are installed.
- Never make alterations to window guards.

### Families living in one or two story homes should consider installing window guards in any window not used as an emergency exit if they have young children.

For more information about approved window guards, preventing window falls, or about your rights as a tenant, call **311** or visit [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/win/win.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/win/win.shtml)

## Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI)

The New York City Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting is now accepting applications for the sixteenth cycle of **The "Made in NY" Production Assistant Training Program**. This **FREE skills training and job placement program** aims to promote diversity in NYC's production industry and create new career opportunities for **young adults** who are unemployed or low-income.

The next cycle of the "Made in NY" PA Training Program is planned to begin in late **September 2009!** **We offer:**

- **4 weeks of full-time hands-on skills training**, taught by industry professionals
- **Two years of job placement assistance** in entry-level commercial, music video, TV and film production jobs (e.g. 'production assistant' jobs)
- **Career counseling** and support as you work your way up.
- **Certification** as a "Made in NY" Production Assistant through a partnership with the **New York City Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting**.

### Who Should Apply?

#### To apply for this program, you must:

- Have a valid driver's license (No Exceptions— you will be driving during job placement)
- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be New York City Resident (you must currently live in one of the five boroughs) and legally eligible to work in the U.S.
- Demonstrate need for this opportunity (e.g. unemployed, low income or receiving public assistance, low-income background or lack of career choices due to personal obstacles)
- In order to apply you must meet all of the above requirements\*
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Please visit our website before applying to learn more about our eligibility requirement and work of a Production Assistant: <http://www.bwiny.org/pages/programs/patraininga.html>

"Made in NY" PAs are now working throughout NYC's production sector, on everything from feature films to commercials to reality TV, episodic TV, music videos, film festivals, and more. **Our participants come from every borough; most had never worked on set before joining the program.**

**AHRCNYC Employment & Business Services**

Gohar Garibyan/Alexis Hines  
**(212) 895-3370/(212) 895-3380**

57 Willoughby Street 4th Floor  
 Brooklyn, New York 11201

Email: [tatyana.pyatigorskaya@ahrcnyc.org](mailto:tatyana.pyatigorskaya@ahrcnyc.org)

Alexis Hines@ahrcnyc.org

**TTD/TTY: (800) 662-1220**

**AHRCNYC**

**Food Service Training Program**

This exciting 15-week program will prepare you for a career in food service through classroom training and hands-on experience in a professional food service environment. Receive a weekly stipend during the training period.

**Careers in Janitorial Services Training Program**

Students will gain classroom and internship experience in this exciting 15 week program.

**To qualify, applicants must be 18-21 years old and economically disadvantaged or with a developmental disability.**

**Expanding Options for Teen Parents and Youth  
 (18—22) (Brooklyn Youth Only)**

**What:**

A **free** 18-week educational and career development program for young women and men interested in preparing for their future. The fall 2009 cycle begins in September and ends in January 2010. **All courses and test preparation activities listed below are required.**

- Academic Skills in Reading, Writing, and Math.
- Career Education and Counseling
- Family Life and Counseling
- Official GED Practice Test
- **Referral to NYS GED Testing Centers**

**Who:**

Brooklyn residents, ages 18-22, are encouraged to apply for this cycle. Youth ages 16 and 17 are not eligible for the GED test until age 19 and are not admitted to Expanding Options. We assist 16 and 17 years old with referrals to GED programs offered by the PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, where they can take the test before age 19 if their test preparation is adequate.

**How:**

Registration will begin on July 22, 2009. Call Mr. Fenton to make an appointment. You can reach him on Tuesday afternoons between 1:30p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**718-552-1133**

**OBT—Opportunities For A Better Tomorrow**

**Step it Up! \* Programs Available**

• **Youth GED & Employment**

Provides comprehensive business skills training and GED classes (if needed) for young adults 17-21 years old. Job placement is provided at the completion of the program.

• **Adult Employment Services**

Provides services and employment assistance to unemployed and underemployed adults.

• **Opportunity Knocks Internship Program**

Paid internships for young adults (17-24 yrs) who are currently not working or in school. **(Bushwick—Bed/Stuy)**

• **Adult Literacy Program**

Provides Pre-GED, GED, Literacy, and ESOL instruction to adults.

• **Learn in the Evening Program**

Provides instruction in English as a Second Language, GED preparation and Computer Applications in a condensed 8 week schedule to accommodate full-time workers. **(Sunset Park)**

**Register Today!**

**Two cycles a year February and September**

**718-369-0303**

Sunset Park

783 4th Ave.

(corner of 27th Street)

**718-387-1600**

Bushwick

25 Thornton Street

(bt. Broadway & Flushing Ave)

**Building Maintenance & Environmental Services  
 (For Women and Men)**

**Fee for course only: \$1,750 for (installment plan available)**

**Fee for course + Placement Assistance: \$2,500**

An intensive hands-on course provides entry-level preparation in building maintenance and repair for handyman and maintenance workers. The course is taught in a well-equipped construction technology lab at the college and provides real work projects in multi-unit building maintenance. Topics include: (1) plaster and sheetrock walls-wood and steel framing, taping and joint compounding, basic repairs and building codes; (2) common plumbing problems; (3) electrical circuitry-switches, receptacles, fuses, circuit breakers and lighting; (4) doors installing and servicing hinges and locks, and weatherizing (5) ceramic tiling (6) wood flooring, and (7) blueprint reading. A certificate is awarded upon completion of the course.

**For information about registration call ACCESS FOR WOMEN at 718-552-1134**

Registration Payment:	\$550	(money order only please)
First installment	\$400	(Due October 3rd)
Second installment	\$400	(Due November 7th)
Third installment	\$400	(Due December 5th)